

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6199

BILL NUMBER: SB 28

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 3, 2014

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Learner's Permit and Driver's License Examination.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Kruse

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the written part of an examination for a learner's permit or driver's license be in English. The bill also prohibits an applicant from using a translator to take the written part of the examination.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Currently, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) administers the written test in the following languages in addition to English: Burmese, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, Punjabi, Korean, Russian, German, and Vietnamese. Additionally, the BMV does not currently provide foreign language translation or interpretation services to individuals taking the written examination or skills test. Requiring the BMV to administer the written examination in only English is expected to have no impact on BMV workload.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Summary:* This bill is expected to decrease the number of learner's permits and operator's licenses annually issued in the state. The revenue loss is estimated to be \$112,900 per year and is summarized in the following table.

Fund	Operator's License Revenue	Learner's Permit Revenue	Total Revenue Loss
Motor Vehicle Highway Account	\$25,600	\$700	\$26,300
Crossroads 2000 Fund	\$11,400	\$2,800	\$14,200
BMV Technology Fund	\$2,800	\$700	\$3,500
Anti-Terrorism Programs	\$7,100	\$2,500	\$9,600
BMV Commission Fund	\$52,600	\$6,700	\$59,300
Total	\$99,500	\$13,400	\$112,900

Additional Information: Since late July 2014, the BMV has been offering a translated written exam in 11 different languages. Approximately 2,700 applicants passed these translated exams during this time period. An estimated 8,100 individuals are expected to pass a translated written exam annually.

It is not known how many of these 8,100 individuals are taking a translated exam because it is more convenient for them or how many are applying for licensure for the first time only because a translated exam is available.

The BMV currently issues an average of approximately 502,000 credentials (operator's licenses and learner's permits) annually. About 415,000 (or about 83%) are operator's licenses and about 87,000 (or about 17%) are learner's permits. Assuming the same distribution applies to the 8,100 individuals expected to pass the written examination in a foreign language, an estimated 1,400 individuals would have been granted their learner's permit, and an estimated 6,700 could be subject to the skills examination. The BMV reports the passage rate for the skills examination is 85%. If all of the individuals estimated to take the translated exam were taking a driver's test only because there was a translated exam available, the maximum decrease in operator's licenses is calculated to be 5,700 annually.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: BMV.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Alex Miller, BMV; Tamytha Cooper, BMV.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.